



The Ground Plane

South Bay
Amateur
Radio
Association
ARRL Member Club
Since 1974



Volume 4 Edition 10

October, 2003

MESSAGE FROM SBARA LEADERSHIP TEAM OCTOBER 2003

At The October SBARA Board meeting Sam Severs, WS6S, offered a resolution requiring the board to put forth a comprehensive effort to cut expenses, increase membership and raise revenues. The Goal is to put money back into the club operating bank account – in short, the resolution commits this board of directors to leave the club in better financial shape than it was at the end of 2003.

Over the last few years SBARA's income has decreased due to:

1. The loss of the Pacificom Swap meets food concession, which brought \$200 to \$300 to the club.
2. The club pulling out of the Primavera bike ride with associated loss of the \$500 donation.
3. Fewer members volunteering at the Zucchini festival, which pays \$5 an hour per member to the club.
4. Reduced club membership reflecting lower revenue from dues.

In the spirit of Sam's resolution the board this month brainstormed ideas of what the leadership can do. Some suggestions were:

1. Cut Field Day expenses by charging a nominal fee for the Saturday dinner while keeping the quality of the event the same or better.
2. Find Fundraisers replacements for Pacificom and Primavera that the members might enjoy to replace the lost revenues.
3. Increase SBARA dues, which have been the same for the last five years.
4. Increase Club membership.

The resolution calls for many different ideas to be implemented and tried. Not all will succeed. As a beginning the board approved increases to the membership dues. A \$5.00 increase for all membership categories was approved starting in 2004. So, with the membership renewal form included in this issue of the Groundplane newsletter you will see the increases reflected. As mentioned, increasing the membership will increase revenue. Please help out by sending in your 2004 renewal as soon as you can.

Meeting Location

It's important to note that for the months October and November the SBARA meeting location has been moved to the conference room at the Lake Elizabeth Boat House.

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SBARA Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2003

Al Rendon WT6K opened the meeting at the Lake Elizabeth boat house conference room.

New visitors noted were Don KG6SBE and Nick KF6MDM

It was noted that Adam Feriante KG6HDR and his son Joshua KG6HDT have just upgraded to Extra Class.

The presentation for the evening was presented by SBARA Activities coordinator Al Rendon WT6K and Al shared the details of his 10Ghz transverter and how he was using it in the 2 weekend ARRL 10Ghz contest (also known as the "Iron Man" contest).

Al related how he got started by being invited to a 10Ghz contest by a friend who loaned him a "spare" 10Ghz system. Al then went to work building his own station based on his ICOM 706 HF/VHF transceiver, a German made 10Ghz transverter kit, a 1 watt amplifier module and a Direct TV dish.

Al related contest strategy he and others used (Mountain topping vs. roving) and scoring rules (points for distance and points for call signs).

A diagram the HF rig (the I.F or intermediate frequency rig), the up-converter (transmitter side), down-converter (receive side), 1 watt amplifier (the up converter barefoot is only 200 Mw), switching relay (switching the antenna between up & down-converter sides) and finally the antenna and feed. With the addition of the 1 watt amplifier a sequencing board was added to insure that the relay was never "hot switched".

A demonstration of the 10 Ghz system followed with the dish looking out a conference room window towards a 10Ghz linear translator on a peak nearby in Fremont. Two 10Ghz equipped ham's were using the translator (Goran AD6IW in Sunnyvale & Gary AD6FP) that Al / WT6K, Bill / AA6PA, Sam / WS6S, Joshua / KG6HDT & Kortnee / KG6HDS were able to work.



Pacificon Reminder—San Ramon Marriott October 17-19, 2003
Details at [www/pacificon.org](http://www.pacificon.org)

Holiday Dinner / Awards Presentation—2003

Our restaurant that we have had the Holiday dinner in the past has closed. We are looking for a new place to hold the dinner—it is scheduled tentatively to be held on December 13th., 2003 beginning at 6:30PM.

Ideas so far include El Burro, Elephant Bar, Chilis, Market Broiler.

Pack Your Bags—For an Emergency

By Jennifer D'Angelo

FOX News

10/6/2003

According to the federal government, all Americans should have "ready kits" (search) or "go bags" containing items such as three days worth of water, non-perishable food, a flashlight, an AM/FM radio and a first-aid kit in case of a natural or manmade emergency.

But while most people agree that basic survival goods could come in handy during a disaster like a blackout or a hurricane, many aren't convinced about a ready-kit's usefulness in the face of a terrorist attack "This little tote bag -- what type of terrorism is this going to prevent?" said Juval Aviv, author of "The Complete Terrorism Survival Guide." "If there's a suicide bomb in the subway, there's nothing in that bag that will help you prevent it or survive. It's like a bandage over a major wound."

The government, however, says the kits, which they have been pushing in a national ad campaign, would be effective in an emergency as part of their three-tiered "Ready" program: "make a kit"; "make a plan" for an emergency; "be informed" about possible threats.

"We're encouraging people to be prepared, whether it's terror or a hurricane," said Lara Shane, spokesperson for the Department of Homeland Security (basic supplies set aside to minimize the disruption."



The kits have been getting a lot of attention lately, presumably because of lessons learned from Hurricane Isabel, the blackout of 2003 and the ad campaign.

"If you miss the federal ads, hopefully you see the local ads," said Shane. "We've received the most donated media of any campaign in the Ad Council's history." At the local level, governments are adapting the federal Ready plan for their regions. New York City, for example, has been promoting "go bags" as part of its Ready New York campaign since early July.

"We've taken preparedness and made it more apropos to New York City," said Jarrod Bernstein, spokesperson for the New York City Office of Emergency Management (search). "This is a real New York-centric program."

The Big Apple's program puts a greater focus on high-rise building and subway safety, issues not as paramount in the rest of the country. But Aviv says the kits are just another distraction from the real threat.

"It's like the government-initiated color-code program that means nothing," said the security expert. "Ask people what yellow, pink, green means -- nobody knows."

Aviv also pointed out that having a flashlight or a granola bar won't help victims of a chemical or biological attack.

ARRL "LOGBOOK OF THE WORLD" IS OFF LIKE A ROCKET

Logbook of the World" (LoTW) <http://www.arrl.org/lotw--the> League's new QSL-cardless awards and contact credit system--has proven to be a huge hit with the amateur community. Since opening September 15, LoTW has acquired more than 2200 registered participants. Another 2400 or so applications are pending, and the QSO database of 4900 uploaded logs had topped 8 million contacts at week's end.

"Certainly the number of Qs that we've gotten is well above what we expected at this point," said ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, who has been sharing duties with Assistant to the CEO David Patton, NN1N, as point man for LoTW. ARRL Web and Software Development Department Manager Jon Bloom, KE3Z, has been handling software development and updating for LoTW.

LoTW is open to all, and applying for a digital certificate is the first step toward taking advantage of the system. The digital certificate authenticates the user's identity.

ARRL will maintain the ballooning repository of log data from casual operators, DX'ers, contesters and major DX Expeditions. LoTW will be able to provide quick QSO credit for awards programs by identifying contact matches within submitted log data. There have been 51,000 such matches to date. Registered participants then will be able to apply LoTW-confirmed QSO credits toward ARRL awards, such as DXCC, WAS and VUCC.

Work continues on the last major LoTW component--the Web pages to apply LoTW confirmations toward ARRL-sponsored awards. Mills expects that LoTW also will one day provide contact credits for non-ARRL programs. "Major award sponsors have expressed interest in using LoTW records, and details are pending," he said.

The key to the ultimate success of LoTW is for users to upload as much log data as possible. The more contacts in the database, the better the chances of a QSO match.

LoTW eventually will be able to search users' DXCC records and find new credits automatically. The program also will provide full viewing of users' DXCC records, automatically alert users to new awards achieved and offer comprehensive support for many other awards.

Mills cautioned new users that LoTW permits just one digital certificate request per call sign. He advised that once users apply for a certificate, they should not attempt to alter it or create another request. Any errors, he points out, can be corrected later. For US users, the first certificate has to be for a current call sign that's in the FCC database. After you get the certificate, you can request additional certificates for formerly held call signs.

While the digital certificate is free, LoTW will charge on a per-credit basis to apply credits toward awards. "Logbook of the World is an alternative to collecting QSL cards by mail," Mills said. Fees <http://www.arrl.org/lotw/fees> range from 25 cents for a single credit to 15 cents per credit in lots of 500. Users may purchase credits in advance, but LoTW fees do not also cover award fees." It turns out that this is a much cheaper way to collect credits for DXCC," Mills asserted. "Overall, we are very happy with the progress and user acceptance."

This week, Echo Link <http://www.echolink.org> announced that it would accept ARRL's LoTW's digital certificates to authenticate new users as an alternative to providing a copy of their amateur license.

News and announcements will be posted to the Logbook of the World Web site <http://www.arrl.org/lotw/>.

Close to 1000 Amateur Radio enforcement cases have crossed his desk since Riley Hollingsworth was tapped five years ago to resurrect the FCC's Amateur Radio enforcement efforts. That doesn't include countless ham radio "situations" he's resolved through informal counseling on the telephone or through an exchange of e-mails.

ARRL "LOGBOOK OF THE WORLD" IS OFF LIKE A ROCKET

At the time he took the job in the fall of 1998, Hollingsworth--whose official title is Special Counsel for Enforcement--called it "a new day for Amateur Radio" after years of amateur enforcement neglect on the Commission's part. As he sees things today, rules compliance and on-air behavior have improved since the new sheriff rode into town, but there's still lots to do.

"I'm fairly satisfied with the progress that we've made in five years," Hollingsworth said in modest acknowledgment of the milestone, "but I think we need at least five more years of this type--of this level--of enforcement, because the bands have quite a long way to go. It's no time to rest."

Five years ago, Hollingsworth began with a "top-10" list of alleged high-profile Amateur Radio offenders. By and large, he's slowly--and most would say successfully--worked his way to the point that many of today's cases appear comparatively mundane. But they get the same level of attention.

"The biggest problem we have now, I think, stems from conduct-type problems--lack of courtesy, taking serious offense and reacting to what is perceived as deliberate interference," Hollingsworth said this week.

"Ninety percent of the interference that's reported to me is not deliberate." As he regards all enforcement cases, the remaining 10 percent are "serious."

"I think a lot of the 'radio rage' has subsided, but I wish that people would be a little more aware of just how valuable Amateur Radio is and how they sound on the air," said Hollingsworth. That's a message he's repeated often on the hamfest circuit.

"Maintenance mode" is a goal he'd like to see enforcement achieve. Hollingsworth explained that's when the number of enforcement cases is perceived to be in balance with the number of licensees. "I don't think we're there yet in the Amateur Service, but I think that we can get there," he said. Hollingsworth credits the amateur community's desire for strong, even stern, enforcement for his program's success.

"Probably 99 percent of the reason it's worked is everybody wants it," he said. "In this service they plead for enforcement. In every other service, they don't want to see you coming." This attitude, he believes, stems from a sincere desire by licensees to keep Amateur Radio a self-policing service. He counts keeping the support of the amateur community among his major accomplishments.

Looking out on the Amateur Radio enforcement horizon, Hollingsworth said he'll "keep pedaling" and chipping away at the enforcement workload. He'll also continue to look to the assistance and cooperation of his fellow radio amateurs, whom he called "just good people."

Amateurs "have got to stick together and cooperate and stay away from the infighting because they've got some very serious external threats," Hollingsworth said, citing BPL as just one example. "To the extent that they're not rowing together, it makes those threats more dangerous."

In his many public appearances--including several at Hamvention--Hollingsworth has stayed "on message" over the five years of his amateur enforcement tenure. "I just want everyone to realize what they have," he said. "We have incredible frequencies, power, modes, and so forth." He said a realization of the value of Amateur Radio itself is a deterrent to potential rule breakers, but he said Amateur Radio enforcement is "permanently en-sconced" at the FCC.

While he's had some very interesting assignments and enjoyed nearly every day of his tenure with the FCC, he says the past five years have been the highlight of his 30-year FCC career.

"My greatest satisfaction is thinking that I may have paid back a debt," said Hollingsworth, who's been licensed since age 13. "It's the most rewarding thing I've ever done with the Commission."

Pack Your Bags—For an Emergency

By Jennifer D'Angelo

FOX News

10/6/2003



(Continued from Page 3)

"What the DHS neglected to explain is that in a biological attack, the effect is not immediate. You should get the hell to the hospital, because they are equipped and at least you have a chance," he said. "With a chemical attack, people close to the attack itself, or the bomb itself, will probably die. Those on the periphery are going to get sick from fumes and should go to the hospital."

Aviv also criticized government officials for taking so long to get the message out -- the DHS came out with its ready-kit campaign in February 2003.

"Shame on them if after two years, this is all they can come up with. It's not up to citizens to protect and defend themselves -- this is why we pay taxes," he said.

New York City resident and clinical psychology student Evan Schwalbe, 29, said he recently saw a pre-made go bag in a Manhattan "spy store" and was tempted to buy it.

"I think it would be helpful in a terror attack if stores shut down. You can only go three days without water," he said. "And a radio helps. Also, having an emergency kit may help to alleviate anxiety. I'd like to have two, one for the apartment and one for my car."

But Schwalbe said he wouldn't expect the kits to prevent him from harm in the event of, say, a chemical attack.

"I don't think they would be lifesaving -- I don't think they're meant to be."

OLDEST HAM IN USA

Reputed "oldest ham in the US" turns 103: The man believed to be the oldest Amateur Radio operator in the US--Byrl "Tex" Burdick, W5BQU, of El Paso--turned 103 on September 25. First licensed in the fall of 1930, Burdick is on the air every day--most recently on 15 meters (look for him on or about 21.314 MHz), and he enjoys rag chewing. On behalf of the League, ARRL President fellow Texan and Jim Haynie, W5JBP, this week wrote Burdick to extend congratulations and best wishes. Burdick is an ARRL member and a routine QDL'er. Happy Birthday, Tex!

Upgrades

Congratulations to Adam and his Son for their recent upgrade to Extra Class—Well done to both of you !!!!



SOUTH BAY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Membership Renewal

Call _____ License class _____

Name _____

Address _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____

e-mail address _____

Family members:

Name	Call	Class
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____

Please circle one:

Senior	Student	Regular	Family
\$10.00	\$10.00	\$20.00	\$25.00

Make check out to SBCRA and send with this form to: KG6HDS
Kortnee Feriante
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Happy Halloween !!!!!!!

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